The following dvds have been added to our collection.

**Kate Bornstein is a Queer & Pleasant Danger** (running time 1:12)

Transgender-dyke, Reluctant-Polyamorist, Sadomasochist, Recovering-Scientologist. Pioneering Gender Outlaw. Meet Auntie Kate. Trailblazing performance artist-theorist-activist, Kate Bornstein, takes us on a mind-bending quest through her world dismantling gender and seeking answers to the age-old question: What makes life worth living? Kate Bornstein is... captures rollicking public performances and painful personal revelations bearing witness to the pioneering gender outlaw who inhabits a space between male and female with wit, style, and astonishing candor. Frequenting 1990’s day-time talk shows, Kate’s book Gender Outlaw secured her place in history. While paving the way for generations of gender non-conforming people, she alienated others resulting in live protests and open letters going viral on the Internet. Increasingly, films narrate the personal lives and transitions of transgender people. Moving the genre forward, Kate Bornstein is... focuses on Kate’s brilliant work and multiplicity of complicated identities. As she receives a grim cancer diagnosis, Kate confronts her own mortality and purpose in life, giving her own motto renewed urgency: “Do whatever it takes to make your life worth living. Just don’t be mean.” By turns meditative and playful, the film invites us on a thought-provoking journey through Kate’s world seeking answers to some of our biggest questions. (from katebornsteinthemovie.com)

**Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise** (running time 2:28)

Distinctly referred to as “a redwood tree, with deep roots in American culture,” Dr. Maya Angelou (April 4, 1928-May 28, 2014) led a prolific life. As a singer, dancer, activist, poet and writer, she inspired generations with lyrical modern African-American thought that pushed boundaries. Best known for her autobiography I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings (Random House), she gave people the freedom to think about their history in a way they never had before. With unprecedented access, filmmakers Bob Hercules and Rita Coburn Whack trace Dr. Angelou’s incredible journey, shedding light on the untold aspects of her life through never-before-seen footage, rare archival photographs and videos and her own words. From her upbringing in the Depression-era South and her early performing career (1957’s Miss Calypso album and Calypso Heat Wave film, Jean Genet’s 1961 play The Blacks) to her work with Malcolm X in Ghana and her many writing successes, including her inaugural poem for President Bill Clinton, American Masters – Maya Angelou: And Still I Rise reveals hidden facets of her life during some of America’s most defining moments. (from http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/maya-angelou-film/7533/)
Documenting Our Times cont’d

14: Dred Scott, Wong Kim Ark & Vanessa Lopez
(running time 1:07)

The documentary film 14: Dred Scott, Wong Kim Ark & Vanessa Lopez explores the recurring question about who has the right to be an American citizen. 14 examines the citizenship clause of the 14th Amendment through compelling personal stories and expertly-told history. Under the Fourteenth Amendment, “All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside.”

The story is told through the lives of three ordinary and extraordinary American families who changed history by their courageous challenges to the powerful status quo – Dred and Harriet Scott, Wong Kim Ark and Rosario and Vanessa Lopez. Descendants of Dred and Harriet Scott and those of Wong Kim Ark tell the stories of how their ancestors fought all the way to the Supreme Court and changed American history.

Rosario Lopez and her daughter Vanessa are both activists in the immigrant rights youth movement. Born in the United States and a citizen under the 14th Amendment, Vanessa wants to be “either an artist, a photographer, a lawyer, or a marine biologist” and President of the United States. It is the citizenship of millions of children like Vanessa Lopez, born in the United States to undocumented parents, that is at stake now. (from 14themovie.com/learn)

Films on Demand continues to add documentaries to the database and now offers over 25,000 titles. Recent additions include Suited (coproduced by actress Lena Dunham), Mosquitos on the Rise and Mapplethorpe: Look at the Pictures.

FOD has a new calendar feature which recommends films in its collections that can be coordinated with events throughout the year. FOD is highlighting the following films for Women’s History month: a four-part series The Ascent of Woman: A 10,000-Year Story and Makers: Women Who Make America, which includes episodes on women in politics, space, war and business. November is Native American Heritage month and FOD offers Spirits for Sale: The Commercialization of American Indian Rituals, The World of American Indian Dance and Native American Communities and Climate Change. The calendar feature can be found in the upper left corner menu.

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Connecting your students to films in the FOD database through Canvas is easy due to the collaborative efforts of Pamela Contakos and Gerol Petruzella. To embed the films you want your students to watch, pull up a course page and click on Edit. You’ll see the Films on Demand icon in the editing menu bar. A box titled Embed content from Films on Demand will appear. Enter your search terms (keyword or title). Each item in the results list will have a blue Embed box on the right. Click on it, then click on the Canvas Save button. A play box will appear, with the title of the film at the top. Remind your students that when accessing the film from off campus, they will be prompted to log in.
Out of the Archives

The photograph at the top of the front page is a view of the campus c.1900, probably taken from Witt’s Ledge. A larger print of the photograph, along with many others, is kept in the college archives in Freel Library. Documents and pictures from the North Adams Normal School days can be seen on the library web site at library.mcla.edu/friendly.php?&s=localhistory. Other digital items that can be viewed online are the college year books from 1911 to the present, The Mind’s Eye, the Sprague Company’s newsletter, The Log and several civic and business ledgers from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Since we started putting the year books online in 2012, they have been viewed over 58,000 times. No login is required to view any of these items. We have additional materials in the collection that have not been digitized. For further information on the archives, contact Linda Kaufmann at 662-4325.

An Invitation

The library issues an invitation to those departments who have not yet created a departmental information literacy plan. The 2013 NEASC report expressed concern that MCLA had not demonstrated that information literacy has been integrated into its curriculum. We know that most departments are addressing information literacy at some level, but may not have developed a formal plan. Please take a look at our information literacy guide (library.mcla.edu/info_lit) and see what some of your colleagues are doing (under Information Literacy at MCLA). You will find a selection of useful articles, the AAC&U IL VALUE rubric and tips for creating research assignments that promote information literacy. We’d like to add your department’s plan to the list. MCLA will soon be reporting to NEASC with an update on the progress it has made in the five years since the last accreditation visit.

It’s an e World

Our collection of academic ebooks continues to grow. Through our members in the CWMARS consortium, we now have access to over 17,000 digital books from Proquest’s EBL service. This collection includes a large number of academic titles which nicely supplement both our print collection and the 134,000 titles in ebrary. All of these titles can be accessed through our catalog. You can also search the EBL database independently of the catalog. You can search the full text of the books, just as you can in ebrary and in our full text journal databases. Ebooks from ebrary and EBL are available to all members of the MCLA community. When prompted to log in, use your college credentials.

Making the Library Connection

Please encourage your students to contact a reference librarian when they need help finding resources. Students often tell us that they use Google exclusively to find resources and, while we know that there are wonderful resources that can be found through Google, we know that starting with library databases full of scholarly journal articles and books will likely lead to better learning and completed assignments. We are happy to come to your classes to give presentation on accessing and using library resources, but we know that available class time is scarce. Students can contact us via email, phone, through texting, Chat and Twitter. They can just drop by or use the appointment scheduler to see when we are available and book a time in advance. Our pictures are all over the library web site, so they can easily identify the librarian they would like to speak with. If they feel shy about meeting with us one on one, we’d be happy to meet with a small group of students, preferably with a common research assignment, in the library or a classroom outside of class time.